

STUDENT PROFILE: FINDING SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

The following article was written by Carla Good, disabilities services coordinator at Ivy Tech Community College – Lawrenceburg. It is a profile of an Ivy Tech student, Kassie White.

“I never thought I could be successful in college,” says Kassie White, a sophomore at Ivy Tech Community College – Lawrenceburg. Like many students, school did not come easy to Kassie. A graduate of Rising Sun High School, Kassie lacked the confidence to believe she could attend college. She knew higher education was important if she wanted to get a good job, but she couldn’t see herself being successful in the classroom.

Fortunately for Kassie, her guidance counselor and several teachers believed otherwise. They encouraged her to think beyond high school and continued to point out her successes to her. She was also encouraged by the personal story of a former Rising Sun police officer who was able to turn his dreams of school and police work into reality. “If he can do it, so can I,” believed Kassie.

Kassie attended the Southeastern Indiana Career Center her last two years of school. She took classes in computers and landed a job working at an insurance company. She graduated from Rising Sun High School in May 2002 and enrolled at Ivy Tech in August of the same year. At first she was not sure what area she wanted to study. Kassie started with early childhood education, but decided to switch to office administration. She didn’t feel pressured to decide on a program right away.

With a busy schedule away from school, Kassie has been attending Ivy Tech on a part-time basis. Her advice for anyone still in high school is to take more courses in math. Kassie wishes she had taken algebra to prepare her for the math classes she has had to take at Ivy Tech. She also wishes she had studied harder, used the library more, and read more while in high school. Kassie says that she believes she has been successful at Ivy Tech because she feels motivated by good teachers to learn more. There might be more work, but she believes that she is learning more and that the explanations seem more relevant. “I am so glad I came here,” says Kassie.